

Sisters' S. C. E.

A WORK FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE S. S. C. E. TO DO

Read by Emma Evans at the Indiana State Conference.

Dear Sisters of the S. S. C. E.: There have been times when we sisters seemed to have nothing to do only to go to church and keep silent and let the brethren do the work. But that time is past and we have seen that the work did not move on as rapidly as it should. There was a lack of activity. Why? Just simply because the sisters did not have their shoulders to the wheel to make it move more rapidly. Why, if you will notice there are more sisters than brethren in the church, and you see they are more energetic and become more enthused in the Master's work than you brethren do. Look for instance what the sisters are doing for the cause of Christ. They have organized an S. S. C. E. and each sister has a work to do, and in some way she is doing something to help the cause along: or if she is not doing her duty there is something wrong. Sisters, arouse and wake up and be interested in yourself and in the needs of the cause we love so dearly and should protect. There is a work for each one of us to do. We read in the Scriptures that the sisters had a work to do. We find Mary and Martha very busy. Each of them had a work. Mary was very much interested in the Master's work. We find her talking to our blessed Master receiving more wisdom. Martha loved the Lord and was a good woman, but she was very busy at work thinking of the temporal needs of life. Now we can't all be Marys or Marthas but we can be both, some Marys and some Marthas.

There are two things we must first learn. Diligent and courageous activity, never be discouraged because our work, or whatever we may be seeking to accomplish, moves so slowly. Let us never fail to do daily the good which lies next to our hands. Do not be in a hurry, but let us be diligent and enter into the patience of the Lord. God can't afford to wait. Therefore as we have opportunity let us do good. Opportunity is one of the most marvelous words in our language. What is it? The lexicographer tells us that it is a conjunction of favorable circumstances for accomplishing a purpose. But words can not tell what it is. First it is very swift in its motions and an opportunity lost never comes back. Just another very much like it may come again, but not the same one. God gives us these opportunities; let us improve them and in some way do good. There are many ways in which we can help along in this grand and glorious work. Marys and Marthas, come and let us see what our work is. Each one of us can do something in some way. We need to be more interested in the saving of souls. There are souls by the hundreds and thousands starving and dying just for the want of some one to break the bread of life to them.

Are there not some Marys in the S. S. C. E. who can take this work upon themselves? Sisters, let us be more interested and endeavor to enlighten those who are away from Christ. The field is broad and hard to work. When we look around in our own community we see where more work is to be done; but that is not all. Christ did not stay in one place all the time. He was busy teaching and preaching here and there, and has given us an example: "*Do thou likewise.*" Go and preach the gospel to all nations. There are missions that need our aid and should have it. Oh, how many, many places in our own country that need the blessed gospel preached to them. The calls come ringing from the foreign fields for help. Dear sisters, it becomes our duty to do what we can for the heathens for Christ loved them also. Mary, where art thou? Let us be up and doing. Sisters, there can be no greater work than leading some soul to Christ. Where are the Marthas? What is there for them to do? What was Martha doing while Mary was talking to Jesus? She was busy trying to do something in a temporal way. Marthas can help to make a way for the Marys to get ready, and to prepare them for the furthering of the work. Now sisters, I think to do this we should have a thorough State organization and adopt the State constitution, and those societies that have grown careless and have neglected their work should be visited by the president and the work laid before them, asking them again to do something for the cause spiritually and financially. Sisters, do you know how much good just our dues that we send in to the National treasurer has done to help to educate our ministers whom we need so much? we also help the missions and the superannuated ministers' fund, and just think how much more good we could do if only each society already organized and each member would gather new zeal and help the work. If we have done nothing but exhibit in our lives the precious results of grace, we will have done well. If each one of us has presented to our companions truths that are sweet to us and tried to say in broken accents, Oh, that you knew this sweet peace; brighten darkened lives, soften the rude, bring sunshine and peace in stormy places, cover the faults and follies of those who do wrong with the flowers of love. It will give us joy unspeakable to meet those in glory who were called to Christ by such a simple means. Dear sisters, there are none of us who can't do that. There are so many who never think of working for the Lord in that way. They think if they haven't dollars and cents they can do nothing. We need both, and must have them to make a success of our work. God has given a work to each one of us, therefore it becomes our duty to obey, seize the opportunity and do something for Him. Try to bring some one to Christ in some way. Dear sisters, there is a work for each member of our society to do and those who do not belong, if only you

would come and unite with us what a power for good we could be! Not that we are not doing good but we could do much more if we had the co-operation of all the sisters. How long must the S. S. C. E. live before we will learn that strength is won by actions and success by working. Feeling that you ought to do something will avail nothing unless you do it. Many of us are for the most part thinking not of what we are to do, but of what we are to get. We commit the sin of Ananias. We want to keep back part of the price, and we continually talk of taking up our cross as if it was a thing of weight only, as if it was a thing to be carried, instead of to be crucified upon. The question is not merely what we can *feel* but what we can *do* for Christ, not how many tears we can shed, but how many we can mortify: not what rapture we can experience but what self denials we can practice; not what happy hours we can enjoy, but what holy duties we can perform. Dear sisters, let patience have her perfect work and bring forth her celestial fruits, trust to God to weave your little thread into a web, tho the pattern show it not yet.

Our Young People

GOD'S LEADING IN OUR LIVES

Ps. 23

Topic November 3.

DAILY HOME READINGS

Mon., Oct. 28, God our preserver, Ps. 31: 14-24.
Tues., Oct. 29, Our Father's plan, Isa. 40: 1-11.
Wed., Oct. 30, Working out God's will, Heb. 13: 17-21.
Thurs., Oct. 31, Need of direction, Ps. 32: 1-8.
Fri., Nov. 1, Led by little things, II Kings 5: 7-13.
Sat., Nov. 2, The light that guides, John 8: 12; 12: 35, 36, 46.
Sun., Nov. 3, The topic.

God's leading in our lives What a delightful theme! How inspiring it is to study it. We have heard much about total depravity and the proneness of weak human nature to wander away from God. Let us study more the nearness of God and the divinity in our lives. Seeing our possibilities will inspire us to attain unto them.

SCRIPTURE HELP

1. The need of leading.
 - (a) Because of our waywardness. Isa. 53: 6 Show how we cannot find our way back to God except he lead us.
 - (b) Because of our helplessness. John 6: 44; John 15: 5.
 - (c) Because of our enemies, I Pet. 5: 8; Ps. 5: 8. How do our own appetites and evil desires often mislead us? How does the world lead us away from God's will? How did the world get such wrong standards as it follows?

2. Divine leading promised. Isa. 41: 10; Ps. 73: 24; Isa. 58: 11; Ps. 48: 14.

Have we a right to expect leading from God even as a child has a right to expect guidance from a parent? Luke 11: 13.

3. Condition of leading—willingness to be led. Ps. 37: 5; John 7: 17.

In school we cannot learn the higher branches until we have learned the lower. Neither can we learn the deeper things of God's will until we obey the